

Title 250 WAC

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

(Formerly: Postsecondary Education, Council for)

Chapters

- 250-20** **State student financial aid program—
Need grant and the federal program
for state student incentive grant pro-
gram Title 45, Code of Federal Regula-
tions Chapter 1, Part 192.**
- 250-82** **Public records.**

DISPOSITION OF CHAPTERS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS TITLE

Chapter 250-44 REGULATIONS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM

- 250-44-010** Purpose. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-010, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-010, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-010, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-010.
- 250-44-020** Program administration. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, § 250-44-020, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-020, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-020, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-020, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-020.
- 250-44-030** Advisory committee. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-030, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-030, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-030, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-030.
- 250-44-040** Definitions. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, § 250-44-040, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-040, filed 7/31/87; 85-10-022 (Order 1/85, Resolution No. 85-44), § 250-44-040, filed 4/23/85; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-040, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-040, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-040.
- 250-44-050** Utilization of available contract funds. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, § 250-44-050, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806 and chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 95-07-087 (Order 95-02), § 250-44-050, filed 3/16/95, effective 4/16/95; 93-07-061 (Resolution No. 93-8), § 250-44-050, filed 3/17/93, effective 4/17/93; 91-14-009, § 250-44-050, filed 6/24/91, effective 7/25/91. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 89-08-056 (Order 1-89, Resolution No. HECB 89-3), § 250-44-050, filed 3/31/89; 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-050, filed 7/31/87; 85-10-022 (Order 1/85, Resolution No. 85-44), § 250-44-050, filed 4/23/85; 84-14-084 (Order 2/84,

250-44-060

250-44-070

250-44-080

250-44-090

250-44-100

250-44-110

Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-050, filed 7/3/84; 83-14-041 (Order 3/83, Resolution No. 83-66), § 250-44-050, filed 6/30/83; 82-23-017 (Order 11/82, Resolution No. 83-21), § 250-44-050, filed 11/8/82; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-050, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-050, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-050.

Eligibility to apply for contracts. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, § 250-44-060, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-060, filed 7/31/87; 84-14-084 (Order 2/84, Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-060, filed 7/3/84. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-060, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-060.

Calendar and closing dates for applications and awards. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-070, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806 and chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 95-07-087 (Order 95-02), § 250-44-130, filed 3/16/95, effective 4/16/95; 93-07-061 (Resolution No. 93-8), § 250-44-130, filed 3/17/93, effective 4/17/93; 91-14-009, § 250-44-130, filed 6/24/91, effective 7/25/91. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 89-08-056 (Order 1-89, Resolution No. HECB 89-3), § 250-44-130, filed 3/31/89; 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-130, filed 7/31/87; 85-10-022 (Order 1/85, Resolution No. 85-44), § 250-44-130, filed 4/23/85; 84-14-084 (Order 2/84, Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-130, filed 7/3/84; 83-14-041 (Order 3/83, Resolution No. 83-66), § 250-44-130, filed 6/30/83; 82-23-017 (Order 11/82, Resolution No. 83-21), § 250-44-130, filed 11/8/82; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-130, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-130, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-070.

Content of application. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-080, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-140, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-140, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-140, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-080.

Standards to be met by applicants. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-090, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 84-14-084 (Order 2/84, Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-070, filed 7/3/84. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-070, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-090.

Required assurances. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-10-020, § 250-44-100, filed 4/23/01, effective 5/24/01; 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-100, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-090, filed 7/31/87; 84-14-084 (Order 2/84, Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-090, filed 7/3/84; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-090, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-090, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-100.

Criteria for selection of contracts to be awarded. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-10-020, § 250-44-110, filed 4/23/01, effective 5/24/01; 01-01-050,

	amended and recodified as § 250-44-110, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-150, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-150, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-150, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-110.		
250-44-120	Procedure for selection of contracts to be awarded. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-020, § 250-44-120, filed 4/23/01, effective 5/24/01; 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-120, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-160, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-160, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-160, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-120.	250-44-180	Withholding of contract payments. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-180, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-190, filed 7/31/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-190, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-180.
250-44-130	Incorporation of applications in contracts. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, recodified as § 250-44-130, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-170, filed 7/31/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-170, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-130.	250-44-190	Accounting, reporting, and records retention requirements. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, recodified as § 250-44-190, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-100, filed 7/31/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-100, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-190.
250-44-140	Length of contract periods. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-140, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806 and chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 95-07-087 (Order 95-02), § 250-44-110, filed 3/16/95, effective 4/16/95; 93-07-061 (Resolution No. 93-8), § 250-44-110, filed 3/17/93, effective 4/17/93; 91-14-009, § 250-44-110, filed 6/24/91, effective 7/25/91. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW as amended. 89-08-056 (Order 1-89, Resolution No. HECB 89-3), § 250-44-110, filed 3/31/89; 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-110, filed 7/31/87; 85-10-022 (Order 1/85, Resolution No. 85-44), § 250-44-110, filed 4/23/85; 84-14-084 (Order 2/84, Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-110, filed 7/3/84; 83-14-041 (Order 3/83, Resolution No. 83-66), § 250-44-110, filed 6/30/83; 82-23-017 (Order 11/82, Resolution No. 83-21), § 250-44-110, filed 11/8/82; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-110, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-110, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-140.	250-44-200	Program audits. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-200, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-200, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-200, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-200.
250-44-150	Amendment of contracts. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, recodified as § 250-44-150, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-180, filed 7/31/87; 82-15-018 (Order 2-82, Resolution No. 82-54), § 250-44-180, filed 7/12/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-180, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-150.		
250-44-160	Eligible expenditures and matching requirements. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, amended and recodified as § 250-44-160, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-080, filed 7/31/87; 84-14-084 (Order 2/84, Resolution No. 84-76), § 250-44-080, filed 7/3/84. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 79-09-042 (Order 7-79, Resolution No. 80-4), § 250-44-080, filed 8/17/79.] Decodified by 07-23-089, filed 11/20/07, effective 11/20/07. Recodified as WAC 131-49-160.		
250-44-170	Payments under approved contracts. [Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW. 01-01-050, recodified as § 250-44-170, filed 12/11/00, effective 1/11/01. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.04 RCW, as amended. 87-16-061 (Order 4-87, Resolution No. 87-57), § 250-44-120,		

Chapter 250-20 WAC

STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM— NEED GRANT AND THE FEDERAL PROGRAM FOR STATE STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM TITLE 45, CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS CHAPTER 1, PART 192

WAC

250-20-013	Institutional eligibility.
250-20-041	Award procedure.

WAC 250-20-013 Institutional eligibility. (1) For an otherwise eligible student to receive a state need grant, he or she must be enrolled in an eligible program at a postsecondary institution approved by the higher education coordinating board for participation in the state need grant program. To be eligible to participate, a postsecondary institution must:

(a) Be a postsecondary institution as defined in WAC 250-20-021(3).

(b) Participate in the federal Title IV student financial aid programs, including, at a minimum, the Federal Pell Grant program.

(2) In addition, a proprietary institution must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board:

(a) That it is certified for participation in the federal Title IV student financial aid programs. Institutions which have been limited or suspended from Title IV programs are not eligible to participate in the state need grant program. A proprietary institution that is provisionally certified due to its failure to meet standards of administrative capability or financial responsibility may have its eligibility limited or denied. Institutions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be allowed to participate in a probationary status with conditions including a letter of credit, or other limitations.

(b) That it is capable of properly administering the state need grant program. In making this determination, the board will consider such factors as the institution's:

- (i) Adequacy of staffing levels.
- (ii) Staff training and experience in administering student financial aid programs and turnover in key personnel.
- (iii) Compliance with the standards of administrative capability specified for purposes of federal Title IV program eligibility.
- (iv) Pending legal regulatory issues.
- (v) Written student complaints.
- (vi) Compliance with state aid program regulations and guidelines.
- (vii) Ability to maintain electronic systems to support state aid program tracking, payment requests and reporting obligations.

(c) That it is maintaining acceptable performance levels. In making this determination the board will consider such factors as the institution's:

- (i) Student completion rate.
- (ii) Student placement rate.
- (iii) Student loan cohort default rate.

In evaluating completion and placement standards, the board will rely on the standards of the institution's accrediting agency or the standard established between the board and the institution at the time the participation agreement is signed. Multiple year averages will be considered in evaluating these standards. Each participating institution will submit its annual accreditation report to the board.

(d) That it is financially stable and has adequate financial resources to provide the services described in its official publications and statements. Institutions must meet the administrative and financial standards for participation in the federal Title IV programs. In making this determination, the board will consider such factors as:

- (i) The school's annual financial statements. The board will not retain copies of confidential financial statements that cannot be exempted from the Public Disclosure Act, chapter 42.56 RCW.
- (ii) The Department of Education's composite financial score.
- (iii) Federal program review findings.
- (iv) State reauthorization or relicensing reports.
- (v) Accrediting agency show cause or other findings.
- (vi) Enrollments by program and intent to terminate an existing program.
- (vii) Enrollment trends.

(e) If evaluation of an institution's administrative capability, performance level, or financial strength results in concerns about the institution's participation in the state aid programs, the board may:

- (i) Request additional information as well as give the school the opportunity to provide additional clarifying information.
- (ii) Place an institution in a probationary status and specify the corrective actions which need to occur.
- (iii) Require a letter of credit or bond.
- (iv) Limit, suspend, or terminate an institution's participation in accordance with WAC 250-20-081.

(3) "Probation" indicates the board has determined that the school has one or more significant deficiencies for which corrective action is required within a specified time period.

(4) The school must renew its eligibility each year under these standards or as requested by the board. A school that has lost eligibility to participate must complete a new application for reconsideration.

(5) Nothing in this section shall prevent the board, in the exercise of its sound discretion, from denying eligibility or terminating the participation of an institution which the board determines is unable to properly administer the program or provide advertised services to its students.

(6) If an institution disagrees with actions taken by the board, the institution can appeal the action per the procedure outlined in WAC 250-20-081.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.92 RCW. 07-15-038, § 250-20-013, filed 7/12/07, effective 8/12/07. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.80 RCW. 06-17-046, § 250-20-013, filed 8/8/06, effective 9/8/06; 95-17-045, § 250-20-013, filed 8/11/95, effective 9/11/95.]

WAC 250-20-041 Award procedure. (1) The institution will offer grants to eligible students from funds reserved by the board. It is the institution's responsibility to ensure that the reserve is not over expended within each academic year.

(2) The state need grant award for an individual student shall be the base grant, appropriate for the sector attended and a dependent care allowance, if applicable, adjusted for the student's family income and rate of enrollment. Each eligible student receiving a grant must receive the maximum grant award for which he or she is eligible, unless such award should exceed the student's overall need or the institution's approved gift equity packaging policy.

(3) The grant amount for students shall be established as follows:

(a) The award shall be based on the representative average tuition, service, and activity fees charged within each public sector of higher education. The average is to be determined annually by the higher education coordinating board. The award for students enrolled in the applied baccalaureate pilot program authorized in RCW 28B.50.810 shall be based on the representative tuition and fees used for the comprehensive universities.

(b) Except for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 academic years, the base grant award shall not exceed the actual tuition and fees charged to the eligible student. During the 2003-04 and 2004-05 years the grant award may exceed the tuition charged to the eligible student by fifty dollars.

(c) The base grant award for students attending independent four-year institutions shall be equal to that authorized for students attending the public four-year research institutions. The base grant for students attending private vocational institutions shall be equal to that authorized for students attending the public community and technical colleges.

(4) The total state need grant award shall be reduced for students with family incomes greater than fifty percent of the state's median and for less than full-time enrollment.

(a) Students whose incomes are equal to fifty-one percent to seventy-five percent of the state's median family income shall receive seventy-five percent of the maximum award. Students whose incomes are equal to seventy-six percent to one hundred percent of the state's median family

income shall receive fifty percent of the maximum award. Students whose incomes are equal to one hundred one percent to one hundred twenty-five percent of the state's median family income shall receive twenty-five percent of the maximum award.

(b) Eligible students shall receive a prorated portion of their state need grant for any academic period in which they are enrolled at least half-time, as long as funds are available. Students enrolled at a three-quarter time rate, at the time of disbursement, will receive seventy-five percent of their grant. Students enrolled half-time at the time of disbursement will receive fifty percent of their grant.

(5) Depending on the availability of funds, students may receive the need grant for summer session attendance.

(6) The institution will be expected, insofar as possible, to match the state need grant with other funds sufficient to meet the student's need. Matching moneys may consist of student financial aid funds and/or student self-help.

(7) All financial resources available to a state need grant recipient, when combined, may not exceed the amount computed as necessary for the student to attend a postsecondary institution. The student will not be considered overawarded if he or she receives additional funds after the institution awards aid, and the total resources exceed his or her financial need by \$200 or less by the end of the academic year.

(8) The institution shall ensure that the recipient's need grant award, in combination with grant aid from all sources, not exceed seventy-five percent of the student's cost-of-attendance. In counting self-help sources of aid, the aid administrator shall include all loans, employment, work-study, scholarships, grants not based on need, family contribution, and unmet need.

(9) The institution will notify the student of receipt of the state need grant.

(10) Any student who has received at least one disbursement and chooses to transfer to another participating institution within the same academic year may apply to the board for funds to continue receipt of the grant at the receiving institution.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.92 RCW. 07-15-038, § 250-20-041, filed 7/12/07, effective 8/12/07. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.80 RCW and RCW 28B.10.822. 04-08-060, § 250-20-041, filed 4/5/04, effective 5/6/04. Statutory Authority: 2813.80 [Chapter 28B.80 RCW]. 99-16-015, § 250-20-041, filed 7/23/99, effective 8/23/99. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28B.80 RCW. 95-17-045, § 250-20-041, filed 8/11/95, effective 9/11/95; 93-08-010, § 250-20-041, filed 3/25/93, effective 4/25/93. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.800 - [28B.10.]822. 90-04-067, § 250-20-041, filed 2/5/90, effective 7/1/90. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 87-16-046 (Order 2/87, Resolution No. 87-59), § 250-20-041, filed 7/29/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.822. 82-15-058 (Order 9-82, Resolution No. 82-52), § 250-20-041, filed 7/20/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.10.806. 80-05-025 (Order 3-80, Resolution No. 80-56), § 250-20-041, filed 4/14/80; 79-11-031 (Order 11-79, Resolution No. 80-18), § 250-20-041, filed 10/11/79; 79-07-021 (Order 5-79, Resolution No. 79-33), § 250-20-041, filed 6/15/79; Order 2-77, § 250-20-041, filed 4/13/77; Order 3-75, § 250-20-041, filed 4/25/75; Order 1-75, § 250-20-041, filed 3/7/75; Order 1-74, § 250-20-041, filed 4/9/74; Order 1-73, § 250-20-041, filed 7/2/73.]

Chapter 250-82 WAC PUBLIC RECORDS

WAC

250-82-010 Authority and purpose.

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250-82-020	Agency description—Contact information—Public records officer.
250-82-030	Availability of public records.
250-82-040	Processing of public records requests—General.
250-82-050	Exemptions.
250-82-060	Costs of providing copies of public records.
250-82-070	Review of denials of public records.

WAC 250-82-010 Authority and purpose. (1) RCW 42.56.070(1) requires each agency to make available for inspection and copying nonexempt "public records" in accordance with published rules. The act defines "public record" to include any "writing containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained" by the agency. RCW 42.56.070(2) requires each agency to set forth "for informational purposes" every law, in addition to the Public Records Act, that exempts or prohibits the disclosure of public Records held by that agency.

(2) The purpose of these rules is to establish the procedures the Washington higher education coordinating board will follow in order to provide full access to public records. These rules provide information to persons wishing to request access to public records of the Washington higher education coordinating board and establish processes for both requestors and the Washington higher education coordinating board staff that are designed to best assist members of the public in obtaining such access.

(3) The purpose of the act is to provide the public full access to information concerning the conduct of government, mindful of individuals' privacy rights and the desirability of the efficient administration of government. The act and these rules will be interpreted in favor of disclosure. In carrying out its responsibilities under the act, the Washington higher education coordinating board will be guided by the provisions of the act describing its purposes and interpretation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-010, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]

WAC 250-82-020 Agency description—Contact information—Public records officer. (1) The Washington higher education coordinating board administers all state student financial aid programs. These programs include state and federal student need based aid, merit based aid, work-force incentive aid, and other outreach programs. In addition, the board provides state level policy development, research, analysis, planning, and coordination of various issues confronting higher education. The Washington higher education coordinating board serves as the administrative agency for the state's guaranteed education tuition program, overseen by the GET committee. The Washington higher education coordinating board central office is located at 917 Lakeridge Way SW, P.O. Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430.

(2) Any person wishing to request access to public records of Washington higher education coordinating board, or seeking assistance in making such a request should contact the public records officer of the Washington higher education coordinating board:

Public Records Officer
Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board
917 Lakeridge Way SW
P.O. Box 43430

Olympia, WA 98504-3430
 Voice 360-753-7800
 Fax 360-753-7808
publicrecordsofficer@hecb.wa.gov

Information is also available at the Washington higher education coordinating board web site at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/>.

(3) The public records officer will oversee compliance with the act but another Washington higher education coordinating board staff member may process the request. Therefore, these rules will refer to the public records officer "or designee." The public records officer or designee and the Washington higher education coordinating board will provide the "fullest assistance" to requestors; create and maintain for use by the public and Washington higher education coordinating board officials an index to public records of the Washington higher education coordinating board; ensure that public records are protected from damage or disorganization; and prevent fulfilling public records requests from causing excessive interference with essential functions of the Washington higher education coordinating board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-020, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]

WAC 250-82-030 Availability of public records. (1) Hours for inspection of records. Public records are available for inspection and copying during normal business hours of the Washington higher education coordinating board, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding legal holidays. Records must be inspected at the offices of the Washington higher education coordinating board.

(2) **Records index.** An index of public records is available for use by members of the public, including final orders, declaratory orders, interpretive statements, and statements of policy issued after June 30, 1990.

The volume of records maintained by the Washington higher education coordinating board is such that it would be unduly burdensome to develop and maintain an index for all such records. In lieu of an index the following filing system is utilized:

(a) Resolutions by the board are filed by resolution number by year.

(b) The following records are filed by the name of the academic institution:

- Complaints filed by persons claiming loss of tuition or fees as a result of an unfair business practice;
- Records regarding the issuance or denial of authorization for an academic institution to issue one or more degrees, or the waiver or exemption of any requirement of authorization;
- Records regarding the approval or denial of a degree program for an academic institution;
- Records regarding program approval for the use of G.I. Bill benefits;
- Records regarding the approval or denial of an academic institution to participate in the state need grant program.

(3) **Organization of records.** The Washington higher education coordinating board will maintain its records in a reasonably organized manner. The Washington higher educa-

tion coordinating board will take reasonable actions to protect records from damage and disorganization. A requestor shall not take records from Washington higher education coordinating board offices without the permission of the public records officer or designee. A variety of records is available on the Washington higher education coordinating board web site at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/>. Requestors are encouraged to view the documents available on the web site prior to submitting a records request.

(4) Making a request for public records.

(a) Any person wishing to inspect or copy public records of the Washington higher education coordinating board should make the request in writing on the Washington higher education coordinating board's request form, or by letter, fax, or e-mail addressed to the public records officer and including the following information:

- Name of requestor;
- Address of requestor;
- Other contact information, including telephone number and any e-mail address;
- Identification of the public records adequate for the public records officer or designee to locate the records; and the date and time of day of the request.

(b) If the requestor wishes to have copies of the records made instead of simply inspecting them, he or she should so indicate and make arrangements to pay for copies of the records or a deposit. Pursuant to section 7 of this rule, standard photocopies will be provided at 15 cents per page.

(c) A form is available for use by requestors at the office of the public records officer and on-line at <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/>.

(d) The public records officer or designee may accept requests for public records that contain the above information by telephone or in person. If the public records officer or designee accepts such a request, he or she will confirm receipt of the information and the substance of the request in writing.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-030, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]

WAC 250-82-040 Processing of public records requests—General. (1) Providing "fullest assistance."

The Washington higher education coordinating board is charged by statute with adopting rules which provide for how it will "provide full access to public records," "protect records from damage or disorganization," "prevent excessive interference with other essential functions of the agency," provide "fullest assistance" to requestors, and provide the "most timely possible action" on public records requests. The public records officer or designee will process requests in the order allowing the most requests to be processed in the most efficient manner.

(2) **Acknowledging receipt of request.** Within five business days of receipt of the request, the public records officer will do one or more of the following:

- (a) Make the records available for inspection or copying;
- (b) If copies are requested and payment of a deposit, for the copies, if any, is made or terms of payment are agreed upon, send the copies to the requestor;
- (c) Provide a reasonable estimate of when records will be available;

(d) If the request is unclear or does not sufficiently identify the requested records, request clarification from the requestor. Such clarification may be requested and provided by telephone. The public records officer or designee may revise the estimate of when records will be available; or

(e) Deny the request.

(3) **Consequences of failure to respond.** If the Washington higher education coordinating board does not respond in writing within five business days of receipt of the request for disclosure, the requestor should consider contacting the public records officer to determine the reason for the failure to respond.

(4) **Protecting rights of others.** In the event that the requested records contain information that may affect rights of others and may be exempt from disclosure, the public records officer may, prior to providing the records, give notice to such others whose rights may be affected by the disclosure. Such notice should be given so as to make it possible for those other persons to contact the requestor and ask him or her to revise the request, or, if necessary, seek an order from a court to prevent or limit the disclosure. The notice to the affected persons will include a copy of the request.

(5) **Records exempt from disclosure.** Some records are exempt from disclosure, in whole or in part. If the Washington higher education coordinating board believes that a record is exempt from disclosure and should be withheld, the public records officer will state the specific exemption and provide a brief explanation of why the record or a portion of the record is being withheld. If only a portion of a record is exempt from disclosure, but the remainder is not exempt, the public records officer will redact the exempt portions, provide the nonexempt portions, and indicate to the requestor why portions of the record are being redacted.

(6) **Inspection of records.**

(a) Consistent with other demands, the Washington higher education coordinating board shall promptly provide space to inspect public records. No member of the public may remove a document from the viewing area or disassemble or alter any document. The requestor shall indicate which documents he or she wishes the agency to copy.

(b) The requestor must claim or review the assembled records within thirty days of the Washington higher education coordinating board's notification to him or her that the records are available for inspection or copying. The agency will notify the requestor in writing of this requirement and inform the requestor that he or she should contact the agency to make arrangements to claim or review the records. If the requestor or a representative of the requestor fails to claim or review the records within the thirty-day period or make other arrangements, the Washington higher education coordinating board may close the request and refile the assembled records. Other public records requests can be processed ahead of a subsequent request by the same person for the same or almost identical records, which can be processed as a new request.

(7) **Providing copies of records.** After inspection is complete, the public records officer or designee shall make the requested copies or arrange for copying.

(8) **Providing records in installments.** When the request is for a large number of records, the public records officer or designee will provide access for inspection and copying in installments, if he or she reasonably determines

that it would be practical to provide the records in that way. If, within thirty days, the requestor fails to inspect the entire set of records or one or more of the installments, the public records officer or designee may stop searching for the remaining records and close the request.

(9) **Completion of inspection.** When the inspection of the requested records is complete and all requested copies are provided, the public records officer or designee will indicate that the Washington higher education coordinating board has completed a diligent search for the requested records and made any located nonexempt records available for inspection.

(10) **Closing withdrawn or abandoned request.** When the requestor either withdraws the request or fails to fulfill his or her obligations to inspect the records or pay the deposit or final payment for the requested copies, the public records officer will close the request and indicate to the requestor that the Washington higher education coordinating board has closed the request.

(11) **Later discovered documents.** If, after the Washington higher education coordinating board has informed the requestor that it has provided all available records, the Washington higher education coordinating board becomes aware of additional responsive documents existing at the time of the request, it will promptly inform the requestor of the additional documents and provide them on an expedited basis.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-040, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]

WAC 250-82-050 Exemptions. (1) The Public Records Act provides that a number of types of documents are exempt from public inspection and copying. In addition, documents are exempt from disclosure if any "other statute" exempts or prohibits disclosure. Requestors should be aware of the following exemptions, outside the Public Records Act, that restrict the availability of some documents held by the Washington higher education coordinating board for inspection and copying:

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99)

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). (PL 104-191 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996; 45 CFR Parts 160, 162, and 164)

28B.76.280 Data collection and research — Research advisory group — Privacy protection.

28B.85.020 Board's duties — Rules — Investigations — Interagency agreements for degree and nondegree programs — Information on institutions offering substandard or fraudulent degree programs — Financial disclosure exempt from public disclosure.

(2) The Washington higher education coordinating board is prohibited by statute from disclosing lists of individuals for commercial purposes.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-050, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]

WAC 250-82-060 Costs of providing copies of public records. (1) **Costs for paper copies.** There is no fee for inspecting public records. A requestor may obtain standard black and white photocopies for fifteen cents per page.

Before beginning to make the copies, the public records officer or designee may require a deposit of up to ten percent of the estimated costs of copying all the records selected by the requestor. The public records officer or designee may also require the payment of the remainder of the copying costs before providing all the records, or the payment of the costs of copying an installment before providing that installment. The Washington higher education coordinating board will not charge sales tax when it makes copies of public records.

(2) **Costs of mailing.** The Washington higher education coordinating board may also charge actual costs of mailing, including the cost of the shipping container.

(3) **Payment.** Payment may be made by cash, check, or money order to the Washington higher education coordinating board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-060, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]

WAC 250-82-070 Review of denials of public records. (1) **Petition for internal administrative review of denial of access.** Any person who objects to the initial denial or partial denial of a records request may petition in writing (including e-mail) to the public records officer for a review of that decision. The petition shall include a copy of or reasonably identify the written statement by the public records officer or designee denying the request.

(2) **Consideration of petition for review.** The public records officer shall promptly provide the petition and any other relevant information to the deputy director. The deputy will immediately consider the petition and either affirm or reverse the denial within two business days following the Washington higher education coordinating board's receipt of the petition, or within such other time as the Washington higher education coordinating board and the requestor mutually agree to.

(3) **Review by the attorney general's office.** Pursuant to RCW 42.56.530, if the Washington higher education coordinating board denies a requestor access to public records because it claims the record is exempt in whole or part from disclosure, the requestor may request the attorney general's office to review the matter. The attorney general has adopted rules on such requests in WAC 44-06-160.

(4) **Judicial review.** Any person may obtain court review of denials of public records request pursuant to RCW 42.56.550 at the conclusion of two business days after the initial denial regardless of any internal administrative appeal.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 42.56.100. 07-12-026, § 250-82-070, filed 5/30/07, effective 6/30/07.]